

## ***For Your Information***

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

May 7, 2021

### **Dates to Remember**

May 17, 2021 – City Commission Meeting

May 18, 2021 – Special Magistrate Hearing

May 27, 2021 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

May 31, 2021 – Memorial Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

### **Office of the City Manager:**

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

The City of Clewiston has spent the past year plus prioritizing capital needs and preparing multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plans for all categories of City infrastructure needs. Among the identified priorities are improvements to the City maintained system of streets. Of those projects, the City Commission has designated the improvement of East Ventura Avenue as the highest priority item. To address this need, the Commission has allocated \$885,000 to fund the rehabilitation of the portion of East Ventura Avenue from its intersection with Francisco Street to the intersection of South Deane Duff Avenue.

As this is one of the City's primary transportation routes, I wanted to provide an update on project progress and the schedule for its completion. For the past several months, the City has been successful in completing the planning, design and permitting phase of the project. The City is currently in the process of soliciting bids from qualified contractors to perform the scope of work with the schedule providing for bids to be received in early June, 2021, and an expectation that the Commission will authorize a construction contract also in June, 2021. This schedule will allow construction to commence this summer and be completed by the fall season. City officials appreciate the public's patience with this essential project which has been in the works for some time. The project is being funded with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant funds made available this year which are being supplemented by City revenues set aside for this priority undertaking based upon the City's consulting engineer's projections. Satisfying the required FDOT project approval elements has consumed much of the process since their funding was authorized for the project.

Looking ahead, the City has already submitted grant applications to FDOT and to the federal government for assistance in completing improvements to the predominately commercial developed portion of Ventura Avenue beginning at the South Deane Duff Avenue intersection and ending at the intersection of W.C. Owen Avenue. If the City is successful in getting

awarded additional funds for this important street section, the goal is to implement streetscape improvements identified in the recently completed and FDOT funded Clewiston 27 Corridor Vision Plan. Improvements would include the use of available funds to redesign this street section that has wider travel lane widths to improve safety for all types of transportation users including: vehicles, bicycles, buses, pedestrians and other forms of multimodal transportation that frequent the area. The improvements would of course address surface conditions and deficiencies, drainage, landscaping, lighting and other safety related signage, markings including crosswalks and other aesthetic type improvements. The projected cost for this project is estimated at approximately \$1.0 million. The City hopes to receive notification of whether its grant application efforts are successful later this year.

Randy Martin, Clewiston City Manager

## **Staff Reports**

### **Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:**

- **COVID-19 Update:** As libraries are continuing to emerge from the pandemic, the Clewiston Library has revised its latest operations to include the following:
  - **Operating Hours-**  
Effective as of Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021:  
Monday through Friday:  
9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday:  
CLOSED
  - Materials are no longer required to be returned via the drop box outside, but may rather be brought inside during operating hours. If you are returning items after hours, please continue to use the drop box as it is emptied daily. All materials will continue to be disinfected before being shelved.
  - As of June 1, 2021, all three libraries within the Cooperative will return to assessing fines-late fees for materials returned after their due date. If at any time you cannot return your items on time simply call the library and we can renew them over the phone.
  - Interlibrary Loans (ILL's) have resumed. If there is an item that is outside of our library cooperative, we can help you locate and request it from any other participating library throughout Florida as we have always done.
  - Courier Service has resumed which allows items to be circulated amongst our three branches here in Hendry County.
  - The library continues to follow all CDC guidelines such as social distancing and requesting face masks to be worn while in the library.  
If you have any questions, please call the library at 863-983-1493. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.
- Library staff provided ready reference assistance to 1,140 patrons during the month of April along with other routine services such as circulation of materials, computer assistance, and programming.
- Virtual programs have continued for all patrons. Programs vary by month so be sure to check out our Facebook page to remain up to date on our upcoming activities. Below are

the programs from this month (please note that all programs except the LEGO Club, come with a premade kit that has all the pieces needed for that day's activity-see images and finished projects below):

- **Take & Make**



- **Sewing Club**



- **Diamond Club**-create cute animals that you can stick on anything you'd like or create a keychain



**Lego Club**



- The Adult Book Club met on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss, *The Vanishing Half* written by Brit Bennett. Come join the fun at our next meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. or 5:15 p.m., as we discuss our current book, *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.
- VITA FREE TAX PREPARATION is available here at the Clewiston Library. This service will run throughout the tax season. If you haven't filed your taxes yet, please call 863-983-1493 to book your appointment.
- Library Director attended the Southwest Florida Library Network board meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Clewiston Library Advisory Board met on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. for our bi-monthly meeting.
- The Hendry County Library Cooperative held their quarterly meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Noon in Labelle.
- This summer the library will be hosting the Collaborative Summer Library Program, titled *Tails and Tales*. Staff is diligently working to finish the summer line up and provide a calendar full of dates and times for youth to stop by the library and join in on the fun. This program will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays (dates to be announced).

Every year, the library offers this free program to the children of Clewiston. Children will enjoy stories, crafts, presentations, and hands on activities with the emphasis being about *Tails and Tales*... Who knows, maybe we'll have a critter or two stop by!

- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.
- Upcoming Events-
  - May 11, 2021 – Take & Make Craft
  - May 12, 2021 – Medicare Part B Enrollment at 12:00 p.m.
  - May 12, 2021 - Director to attend SWFLN Board Meeting in Fort Myers.
  - May 12, 2021 – Virtual Craft and Chat at 4:00 p.m.
  - May 13, 2021 – LEGO Club Via Facebook Group
  - May 13, 2021—Book Club Meeting at 2 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.
  - May 18, 2021– Take & Make Craft
  - May 18, 2021– Medicare Part C at 12:00 p.m.
  - May 19, 2021 – Medicare Part D at 4:00 p.m.
  - May 19, 2021 – Origami Club at 4:00 p.m.
  - May 25, 2021 – Take & Make Craft
  - May 26, 2021 – Virtual Sewing Club
  - May 27, 2021 – LEGO Club Via Zoom

**Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:**

- Mosquito Control Trap Counts:

	4/19	4/29	5/5
Okeechobee Blvd.	200	400	700
Public Works	0	0	0
Saginaw	87	200	300
Golf Course	150	400	900
Sports Complex	0	0	0
Elks Field	0	0	96

Ground Missions: April 19, April 20 and May 6

- **Parks Department Activities:**
  - The “spring riders” in the Candy Cane Park were repaired and painted.
  - The east wall of the pool building was power washed and sealed. The High School Art Class has started painting the mural of Winnie the Pooh.
  - We have started the spring fertilizing operations in the Sports Complex; both liquid and granular applications. One specific target is the “white flower weed” known to take over the area. The spray specialist has met with staff to provide assistance and instruction on how to eradicate this imposing weed. Spraying will be done over the next few days.

- High School and Little League baseball has come to an end. Travel ball teams and men's league softball will be starting up soon.
- **Street Division Activities:**
  - Pot holes were run on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May.
  - All unpaved streets in town were graded and pot holes smoothed out.
  - Hedges on Bond Street and in Civic Park were trimmed and mowed and looked great for the Easter weekend.
  - Staff finished up their training and were certified in the operations of the "fork lift" and the "scissor lift" this week.
  - Sidewalks on Bond Street were power washed.
  - The Royal Palms on US27 were sprayed to kill grass and a healthy amount of red mulch was placed around the base of the trees.
  - We are moving a very large pile of soil from the Commerce Park.
  - Installed six speed limit signs; four on Sugarland Circle East and West and two on Caribbean.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
  - Staff replaced a water fountain in the maintenance building in the Sports Complex.
  - Staff replaced the water heater in the Utility Building.
  - Staff replaced a sink faucet in the Operations Building.
  - Two windows were replaced on the Pro Shop and a new AC was installed in the men's locker room at the Golf Course.
  - Two doors were replaced at the Bag Room and women's locker room at the Golf Course.
  - A new "Dog House" over the irrigation pump east of the parking lot is being rebuilt.
  - Baseboards were replaced and the lower section of the wall in the Beardsley Room was painted.
  - A contractor power washed the Pro Shop and Country Club. They are painting the outside of the building.
  - Wheel stops and lines at ADA parking slots at the Golf Course parking lot were painted ADA blue.
  - A troublesome sewer blockage at the Police Department was repaired requiring the replacement of 40 feet of cast iron pipe and a couple of connecting tees.
  - The Atrium windows in the City Hall were leaking and had to be resealed.
  - Two new building signs were installed at the Golf Course; one on the Pro Shop and the other on the Country Club.
  - The fascia was replaced around one of the out-buildings at the Golf Course.
  - ACs in the John Boy Auditorium were serviced.
- **Reminder:** Clean water is the responsibility of everyone. We all are responsible for contributing some pollutants affecting the quality of water that future generations will depend upon. Please remember, unused medications are not to be flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain. Take them to the Police or Sheriff's department. Never throw used batteries in the garbage. Recycle them. Triple rinse all jugs and bottles that have had cleaning solutions in them. Leave the lid off and take them to a recycle bin. **DO NOT** place these items in the thin plastic bags we get at stores. These small light duty plastic bags do serious damage to specialized equipment used in the recycle operation.

**Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:**

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.

- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:45am-5:30pm. The first tee time is 8:00am. Tee Times are required. The Golf Shop contact number is 863-983-1448.
- Golf Carts have to be in at 7:00pm.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after hours (Night Time). Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or at the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- Golf lessons are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. To schedule, contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Monday's Special after 12:00pm - 18 holes cart included \$26.00 plus tax. Tee Time required.
- April 17, 2021 Moore Haven Terrier Boosters Tournament was held. They had 112 players play. They raised money for the athletic program.
- May 8, 2021 Clewiston Tiger Boosters Tournament is scheduled to be held.
- Clewiston Golf Course is open on Memorial Day.
- Junior Golf Camp is getting close to being held at the Clewiston Golf Course. Dates will be announced in the next couple weeks. For information log onto the City of Clewiston's website.
- Repairs on the greens are going well. The golf course has planted sprigs in areas where needed.
- Painting of the clubhouse is almost finished.
- The City of Clewiston is taking applications for two vacant jobs at the golf course now. Pro Shop Clerk and Part-Time Bag Room Attendant.
- Summer Memberships will be available starting May 15, 2021.
- Rates for Non-Members go down May 15, 2021.

**For more information call the golf shop 863-983-1448**

#### **Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:**

City of Clewiston Ordinance

Home occupations conducted within the City of Clewiston shall be clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the residence for residential purposes and shall not change the residential character thereof and be located only within the permitted City of Clewiston zones and in adherence to Section 110-525 of the City of Clewiston Ordinances.

Sec. 110-525. - Home occupations.

- (a) Intent. The standards for home occupations are intended to ensure compatibility with other permitted residential uses and with the residential character of the neighborhood. No home occupation shall be permitted which might interfere with the general welfare of the surrounding area due to potential noise, increased pedestrian or vehicular traffic, use of occupational vehicles or equipment, or entail any other condition, which would constitute an objectionable

use of residential property. Business activity conducted over the internet, cellular or digital format, is not subject to city regulation, provided any activity is conducted only by legal occupants of the residence, there are no employees on site, no deliveries or pickups are made by couriers or delivery services, and no other activity attributable to the business is visible from the exterior of the residence. All other internet, telephone, or cellular business will comply with the home occupation and other provisions of the Code as applicable.

You may read the full City of Clewiston Ordinance Section 110-525 here:

[https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH11\\_OZO\\_ARTVISUDIRE\\_S110-525HOOC](https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH11_OZO_ARTVISUDIRE_S110-525HOOC)

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances is available online and may be accessed utilizing the City of Clewiston website: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/> or Municode Library website: [https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances)

If you have any questions about how to achieve/maintain compliance with this or any other City of Clewiston Ordinance you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309.

Sincerely,

*Debra Clay*

Debra Clay  
Code Compliance Supervisor  
Office: (863)983-1454 ext. 309  
[debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov)

**Animal Control Officers Jamie Wright and Amanda Nelson report:**

**INTAKE**

\*Cats: 54

\*Dogs: 56

**OUTCOME**

	CAT	DOG	OTHER
ADOPTION	2	3	0
RETURN TO OWNER	0	5	0
TRANSFERRED (RESCUE)	13	48	0
EUTHANIZED	3	2	0
OTHER	0	0	0

April 23, 2021

“Pretty as a penny” is the saying and Penny the pitbull’s story is pretty as they come! Penny came to CAC as a stray abandoned dog over a month ago from running the streets in a very dangerous and rural area heavily known for puppy mills and dog fighting. Thankfully Penny ended up at the right house when the owner sheltered her from the streets hoping to find an owner. After a week of no luck CAC was called. Penny came in slightly underweight, dirty and baring a few scars. After a good bath and TLC she became

a healthy happy girl. Unfortunately CAC faced a very rough situation of overcapacity after having a 12 dog intake AT ONE TIME on top of already having 10 dogs and only 14 kennels. After multiple attempts for rescues we were faced to potentially euthanize 6 amazing dogs. Penny being one. After a post to plea we managed to rescue all dogs. We received OVER 65+ calls in just one day to help our animals but one call in particular stood out. A call for Penny. As it turns out Penny was a puppy from an accidental litter of puppies. The family tried their best to rehome them to loving caring homes and was promised the pups would be safe. However this was not the case for Penny. Upon learning of Penny's disappearance her owners began a search for her that lead to many dead ends...until CAC made our post and there sat a smiling happy girl they immediately recognized. Her original owners high-tailed it as fast as they could to CAC and they were reunited. The connection was undeniable and there was no doubt Penny knew exactly who they were. Even after being missing....for TWO YEARS! Yes that is correct Penny went missing back in 2019. Penny is a spitting image of her mother who the family tragically lost a few years ago so the resemblance of her mother brought a speck of peace to the home. The family has since sent updates and Penny is now a happy healthy girl in her FOREVER HOME!

April 25, 2021

A disturbing discovery was made by City Public Works on the morning of April 25, 2021. Upon a garbage truck unloading its morning run haul, a black trash bag containing 2 small breed dogs (one tan and one black) were discovered. Unfortunately the pups were deceased upon being found. CAC posted a plea for help from the community for any information or tips on who may be responsible. We asked any homes in the area behind Walmart all the way to Royal Palm Ave north of US 27 to the canal off Avenida Del Rio to review any home security footage to potentially discover a suspicious vehicle, person or catch the act itself. Word spread quickly and NBC2 News came out to assist with bringing attention to the matter. Unfortunately at this time CAC has not received any tips or information. Please note if you ever suspect neglect or see something contact your local authorities or animal control immediately. Many callers can be anonymous as well.

April 30, 2021

Clewiston Animal Control received a call to assist from Hendry County Sheriff's Office in regards to a traffic stop with some unusual feathery passengers. Upon pulling the vehicle over HCSO Deputies discovered 3 chickens inside the truck; 2 turkin roosters and 1 hen. All 3 birds were unable to provide a valid drivers license or ID and were taken into CAC custody to be rehomed to a farm to serve a full life sentence! Clewiston Animal Control does not handle livestock or poultry within county limits however due to the Agriculture department being out on another call CAC stepped in to assist.

-ACO Jamie Wright & Amanda Nelson  
Clewiston Animal Control  
(863) 983-1474 #0  
Ext. 250

### **Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:**

Negotiations with Contractor SENSUS for a Smart Meter implementation and managed service contract are going well. We hope to present a final agreement for consideration by the Board of Commissioners this month.

- **Electric Crew Activities:**
  - set eight new poles for sewer plant power line,



- replaced broken pole top pin on Arkansas Avenue,
- removed vegetation from power lines,
- repaired street lights,
- installed five new pole anchors,
- trouble call at central elementary school- squirrel caused the outage,
- changed transformer on East Alverde Avenue,
- transferred Center State Bank to feeder three,
- serviced ball field lights,
- leveled transformer on Concordia Street
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
  - Repaired two lift stations; Corona street lift station (5 HP pump failure), Fairgrounds lift station (electrical wiring of new pump)
  - Repaired three ¾" water line breaks located at W. Pasadena and Harlem Gardens caused by old cracked pipe failure.
- **Customer Service Department**
  - Your Utility partners with customers to bring renewable power to the electric grid. If you'd like to learn more about net metering, please visit the FTC consumer information site at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0532-solar-power-your-home>.
  - Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov). You may update your information at any time through the same link.
  - If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or call our office.
  - *IT'S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
  - ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl).